mercaptoalkyl, alkenyloxy, mercaptoalkenyl, aryloxy, mercaptoaryl, arylalkyloxy, mercaptoarylalkyl, $SC(O)R_6$, $OS(O)R_6$, $OS(O)_2R_6$, $NHC(O)R_6 = NR_4$ or NHR_4;

R_4 is OH, alkyl, alkoxy, poly(ethylene glycol), alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl; and

wherein each ~~constituent~~ substituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

provided that:

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H or Br and R_9 is Br, then Z is other than H, $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

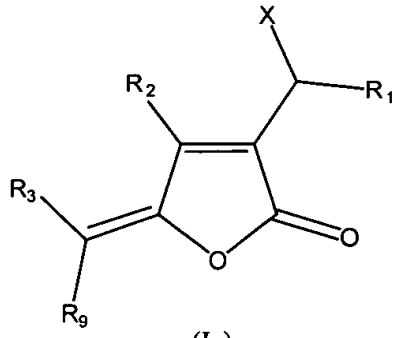
when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R is I, then Z is other than $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R is Cl, then Z is other than OH;

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is H, R_3 and R are Br, then Z is other than H; and

when R_6 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_9 is Cl and Z is H, then R_3 is other than Cl.

2. (thrice amended) A compound according to formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;

X is a halogen, OH, $OC(O)R_1$ or =O;

R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen;

R_9 is halogen; and

wherein each constituent can be substituted or unsubstituted, straight chain or branched chain, and hydrophobic, hydrophilic or fluorophilic;

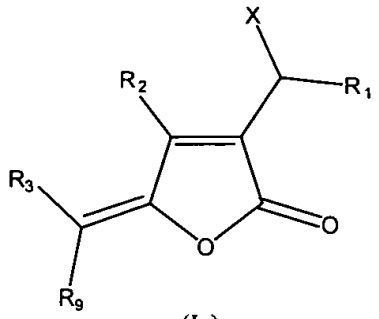
provided that:

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H or Br and R_9 is Br, then X is other than $OC(O)CH_3$ or OH;

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H and R_9 is I, then X is other than OC(O)CH, or OH; and

when R_1 is propyl, R_2 is Br, R_3 is H, R_9 is Cl, then X is other than OH.

6. (thrice amended) A method for forming a compound of formula (Ia), comprising reacting a fimbrolide with a halogenating agent and/or an oxygenating agent to form the compound of formula (Ia):



(Ia)

wherein R_1 is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, oxoalkyl, alkenyl, aryl or arylalkyl;
X is a halogen, OH, $OC(O)R_1$ or =O;
R_2 and R_3 are independently or both hydrogen or halogen; and
R_9 is halogen.